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4 August 1957

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2. THE OMANI REBELLION

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The decision of the Macmillan government to commit British ground forces in action against the Omani rebels underlines its anxiety to restore the Sultan of Muscat's control quickly before his difficulties have repercussions in other Persian Gulf states and before Saudi Arabia becomes publicly involved. RAF operations to date have failed to end the rebellion, and London apparently believes that if the Sultan's forces were to suffer a second reverse, liquidation of the rebellion would be long drawn out.

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the area in revolt is enlarging and now includes three villages in Sharqiya Province which have displayed Omani colors.

Detachments of the British Cameronian battalion are being moved to Ibri and several other points on the northern and western periphery of the dissident area. The British troops will give direct support to native forces of the Sultan and the Trucial Oman Scouts in converging on the rebel-held highlands. The Cameronians will be reinforced by a small armored car force which is being brought from Aden, and by additional military specialists and weapons from Cyprus. At least one company of another British unit is being flown from East Africa to Bahrein.

London's decision to employ British troops came only a day after the commander of British land forces in the Middle East arrived in the Persian Gulf to assess the situation. Prime Minister Macmillan had earlier stated [redacted] he was determined that British ground forces not become involved.

The RAF has concentrated on efforts to paralyze all activity on the ground within the rebel area. The inhabitants are in the midst of gathering the date harvest, which is

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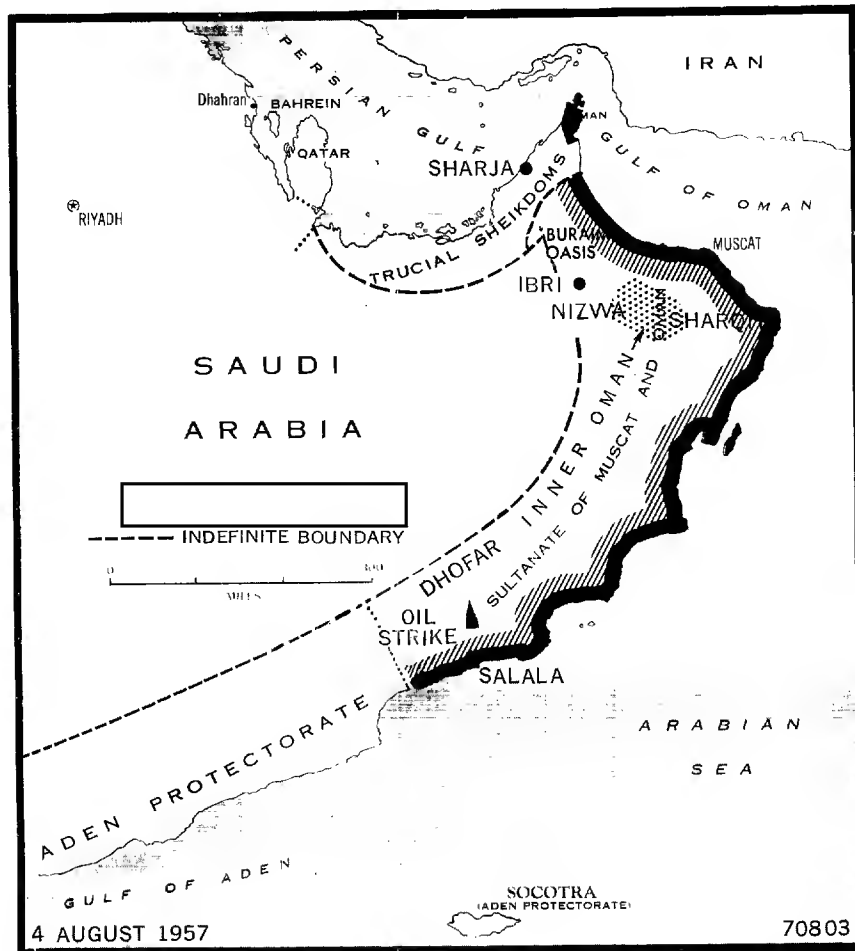
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almost their sole source of income, and it is hoped that loss of the harvest will turn the population against the rebel leaders.

Meanwhile, what appears to be the first significant oil discovery in the Sultan's territory has been publicly announced by the American Cities Service Oil Company. The strike was made in Dhofar Province, over 400 miles southwest of the Omani rebellion. Preliminary tests reportedly indicate a producing capacity of 2,000 barrels a day from a depth of 3,200 feet. The well site is said to be about 35 miles inland from Salala. If true, this would appear to be south of the border area which has been in dispute between Saudi Arabia and the Sultan of Muscat.

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3. TURKEY REPORTEDLY MODIFYING ATTITUDE TOWARD
CYPRUS SETTLEMENT

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The possibility of a condominium over Cyprus is currently under study in Ankara and the Turks will be prepared to negotiate aspects of this solution. Turkey reportedly would even be willing to accept self-government for Cyprus under NATO guarantees for an extended period of time, preferably 20 years.

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Comment

For months the official Turkish position toward a Cyprus settlement has been an adamant demand for partition as the only acceptable compromise between union of the island with Greece and its return to Turkey. Recently, there have been indications that the Turks might relax their inflexible attitude.

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5. BULGANIN DROPPED FROM SOVIET DELEGATION
TO EAST GERMANY

Comment on:

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The name of Soviet Premier Bulganin was not included in Moscow radio's announcement of the "party and government" delegation which will leave for East Germany on 7 August, suggesting he will soon be ousted as chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Pravda had announced on 23 July that Bulganin would accompany Khrushchev to Berlin, but Mikoyan will now go along instead.

Bulganin, who may be sick, has been active in Moscow affairs since accompanying Khrushchev to Czechoslovakia last month, and attended the reception given on 1 August by the Swiss ambassador in honor of the Swiss national holiday.

Bulganin was given a "last chance" censure by the party central committee plenum in June, presumably because he "vacillated" in his support of Khrushchev.

If Bulganin is demoted, his formal dismissal or "resignation," like Malenkov's in 1955, will probably take place at a Supreme Soviet session. Such a session may be convened later this month or early in September to hear a review of the international situation and a report by Khrushchev on the results of his recent talks with Tito and the trip to East Germany.

A meeting of the party central committee would be necessary to remove Bulganin from the party presidium. He may remain on that body for some time, as did Malenkov, Molotov, and Kaganovich after their demotions in the government.

Mikoyan appears the most likely candidate to succeed Bulganin. He has had many years' experience as

a top-level government administrator and apparently has Khrushchev's full confidence. He replaced Bulganin on the "B and K team" in the recent talks with Tito and he is now to represent the Soviet government during the scheduled visit to East Germany.

Other possible candidates include Nikolai Shvernik, former titular head of state, and Defense Minister Georgy Zhukov, recently rumored to become Bulganin's successor as a reward for supporting Khrushchev in June.

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7. KHRUSHCHEV-TITO MEETING IN RUMANIA

Comment on:

The meeting between Khrushchev and Tito in Rumania on 1 and 2 August appears to restore to Yugoslav-Soviet relations a status comparable to the "honeymoon" period which ostensibly existed at the time of Tito's visit to the USSR one year ago last June. This attempt to establish a new era of good relations is handicapped from the start by acknowledged differences between the two states.

Moscow radio announced on 3 August that the Soviet party delegation, headed by Khrushchev, Mikoyan, and Kuusinen, held talks with the top Yugoslavs, Tito, Kardelj and Rankovic, concerning Yugoslav-Soviet relations. The delegations reaffirmed the Belgrade and Moscow declarations of 1955 and 1956 calling for the development of closer party and state relations on the basis of the "principles of respect for equality and independence." There was no announcement, however, of a specific affirmation of these principles in respect to other socialist states, a point for which the Yugoslavs have long contended.

Moscow radio announced that the meeting emphasized the need for "constant ties" through the exchange of party delegations, mutual information, and publications.

These conversations were foreshadowed just following the Soviet presidium shake-up when Khrushchev in Prague clearly indicated that he would welcome talks with Tito in order to improve Soviet-Yugoslav relations. Subsequently, a Yugoslav precondition for such talks was met with the restoration of Soviet "postponed" credits to Yugoslavia on 29 July.

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8. OUSTER OF CUBAN PRESIDENT PLANNED

Comment on:

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Opposition groups in Cuba will shortly present President Fulgencio Batista with the choice of resigning in favor of a military junta or of facing "intensive revolutionary action,"

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If Batista chooses to resist, the opposition with dissident members of the armed forces will attempt to occupy military installations, to isolate Havana from army headquarters at Camp Columbia, to install a provisional president.

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If Batista accepts the alternative of resigning, an interim junta will assume power, possibly on 6 August, and will be replaced by a provisional president when control of the country has been assured. If the plan is successful, Col. Ramon Barquin, who has been imprisoned on the Isle of Pines since he attempted unsuccessfully to instigate a barracks uprising in March 1956, will become provisional president. Barquin is considered to be pro-US and anti-Communist.

The plan has widespread support among leading opposition and military leaders, Rebel chieftain Fidel Castro and other leaders of the revolutionary 26th of July Movement are reported in agreement with the plan. Some police, army, navy, and air force officers and enlisted men are involved. The Federation of University Students may also attempt revolutionary action.

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Batista's best chance of resisting concerted revolutionary action is with continued support from the majority

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of the armed forces, which have been the bulwark of his regime. Some key officers are showing signs of defection.

Meanwhile, a general strike which began on 1 August in Santiago de Cuba, the island's second largest city and center of opposition activity in rebel-infested Oriente Province, is spreading to other cities in eastern Cuba. Government efforts to force commercial establishments to remain open have failed. Constitutional guarantees were suspended on 1 August for a period of 45 days.